

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/735,943

Examiner

Adi Amrany

Applicant(s)

CHEN ET AL.

Art Unit

2836

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Applicants' amendment, 29 Septemeber, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 18-24, 26-29 and 31-44.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, filed September 29, 2006, with respect to claims 18-36 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of the claims have been withdrawn.

New claims 37-44 are accepted.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Dali Wu on October 17, 2006. Applicants amended claim 18 (September 29, 2006) to add the limitation of a global supply. The global supply, however, appeared to replace the functionality previously provided to the M voltage sources. A telephone interview was conducted to review the arrangement of components in the amended claim.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 18: A circuit comprising:

at least one global supply, to provide input power to the circuit;

M voltage sources to provide output power from the circuit, wherein M is an integer number [greater than] of at least two (2);

a switching network having M terminals, wherein each terminal is coupled to [an output from] one of the M voltage sources;

the switching network containing N switch structure circuitries to electrically couple the at least one global supply to the M terminals, wherein N is an integer of at least [two (2)] one (1);

each of the N switch structure circuitries containing a first and a second switch to couple the at least one global supply to a first and a second of the M terminals, respectively; and

each of the N switch structure circuitries further containing a third switch to electrically connect pairs of the [outputs of the M voltage sources] M terminals, wherein the connection of pairs of the [outputs] terminals is based on a mapping selected from the group consisting of connecting pairs of all of the outputs together, connecting at least two of the outputs together, predeterminately connection at least two of the outputs together, and dynamically determinately connecting at least two of the outputs together.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 18-31 are allowable because the prior art does not teach or suggest a switching structure, comprising, inter alia, a *third switch* to electrically connect pairs of the output terminals

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of the switching structure in order to couple power domains with the same voltage requirement to reduce voltage fluctuations in the voltages provided.

Claims 32-36 are allowable because the prior art does not teach or suggest an integrated circuit comprising, inter alia, a switching network containing a *voltage switch* between each of the M voltage sources and a selected power supply.

Claims 37-44 are allowable because the prior art does not teach or suggest a circuit comprising, inter alia, a *third switch* connected between two of the at least two power domains.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Adi Amrany whose telephone number is (571) 272-0415. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays, from 9am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on (571) 272-2800 x36. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AA



BURTON S. MULLINS
PRIMARY EXAMINER